

## Message Text

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44

ACTION ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 DHA-02 ORM-02 VO-03 SCA-01 AID-05 IO-10

SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 ISO-00 /058 W

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O R 281303Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3355

INFO AHCONSUL UDORN 2566

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 22606

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: REFUGEES IN THAILAND

REF: STATE 254055

1. REGRET FACT THERE IS MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN EMBASSY AND WASHINGTON OFFICES WORKING ON REFUGEE PROGRAM OVER STATUS AND NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN THAILAND WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE INTO U.S. HOPE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, KEYED TO REFTEL, WILL CLARIFY SITUATION:

A. RE PARA 2 REFTEL, THE 600 SLOTS WERE USED FOR ALL THREE GROUPS (VIETNAMESE, LAO AND KHMER) DEPENDING ON OUR ESTIMATE OF PRIORITIES AT THAT TIME.

B. RE PARA 3 REFTEL, THE 350 VIETNAMESE AND 250 CAMBODIANS MENTIONED IN BANGKOK 22360 ARE ESTIMATES RPT ESTIMATES OF THOSE REFUGEES WHO MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE. APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN FOR CHANGING FIGURES OF ELIGIBLES BUT DIFFICULT TO AVOID AS ADDITIONAL SCREENING AND INTERVIEWS BRING MORE CASES TO LIGHT. PLEASE BEAR IN MIND THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH A GROUP OF MORE THAN 70,000 REFUGEES SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THAILAND AND THAT OUR ACCESS TO MANY OF THESE REFUGEES IS LIMITED OR NON-CONFIDENTIAL

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EXISTENT. IN MANY CASES WE DO NOT KNOW ABOUT AN ELIGIBLE

REFUGEE UNTIL HE CONTACTS US OR GETS INTO ONE OF THE CAMPS TO WHICH THE RTG GIVES US ACCESS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE ARE FORCED TO FALL BACK ON OUR OWN BEST ESTIMATES IN ORDER TO KEEP AVAILABLE PAROLE NUMBERS WE BELIEVE WE ARE LIKELY TO NEED.

C. RE PARA 4A REFTTEL, EMBASSY CANNOT UNEQUIVOCALLY ASSERT THAT 350 VIETNAMESE MENTIONED PARA 3 BANGKOK 22360 ARE IN FACT CLOSE RELATIVES. ALL CLAIM CLOSE RELATIVE AND MOST HAVE PRODUCED LETTER FROM CLOSE RELATIVE OR NAME AND ADDRESS ALLEGING CLOSE RELATIVES IN THE U.S. HOWEVER, ONLY INS CAN MAKE FINAL DECISION WHETHER PROOF PRESENTED BY REFUGEE WILL BE ACCEPTED AS SUFFICIENT TO QUALIFY REFUGEE AS CLOSE RELATIVE. (REFTTEL SEEMS TO IMPLY THAT EMBASSY MAKES THIS DECISION, BUT THIS IS NOT THE CASE.)

C. RE PARA 4B REFTTEL, THE 333 VIETNAMESE WHO ARE ESTIMATED TO QUALIFY EXCEPT FOR JULY FIRST CUT-OFF DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OF THE 125 VIETNAMESE AND BLACK THAI ESTIMATED IN UDORN 1291. CONCERNING THESE 333 VIETNAMESE, WHO ARRIVED AFTER JULY 1 CUT-OFF, MOST QUALIFY UNDER EXPANDED CATEGORY III (I.E., "MORE DISTANTLY RELATED") RATHER THAN CATEGORY I AS ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED IN BANGKOK 22360. WE MENTIONED THEM IN OUR EARLIER TELEGRAM ONLY BECAUSE THIS WOULD ENABLE US TO MOVE OUT VIRTUALLY ALL VIETNAMESE AT VAYAMA BUT ARE TAKING NO STEPS TO CONTACT THEM IN VIEW OF THE JULY 1 CUT-OFF DATE.

D. RE PARA 4C REFTTEL, YOUR ASSUMPTION CORRECT THAT 290 ESTIMATE OF REMAINING CAMBODIAN ELIGIBLES BASED ON POPULATION OF 6,300 CAMBODIANS REFUGEES ON WHOM EMBASSY HAS FILES. MOST OF THE REMAINING 13,000 CAMBODIAN REFUGEES BEYOND THE 6,300 ON WHOM EMBASSY HAS FILES, ARE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGES AND COUNTRYSIDE OF THAILAND SO THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE EMBASSY TO SEARCH THEM OUT AND CLASSIFY THEM NEATLY ACCORDING TO THREE CATEGORIES. INCLUDED IN THIS GROUP ARE 7,000 WHOM THE UNHCR CLASSIFIES AS THAI REPATRIATES FROM CAMBODIA AND NOT REFUGEES. FURTHER, MANY OF THE 13,000 ARE ALREADY EARNING A LIVING BY TRADITIONAL FARMING AND FISHING AND ARE, IN EFFECT, RESETTLE. THEY HAVE NOT CONTACTED THE EMBASSY AND WE HAVE HAD NO CONTACT WITH THEM. THEREFORE, EMBASSY HAS NO WAY OF ESTIMATING THEIR PAROLE ELIGIBILITY.

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2. AS MENTIONED IN BANGKOK 22493, THERE ARE AN ADDITIONAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES WHO APPEAR TO QUALIFY UNDER EXISTING GUIDELINES EXCEPT THAT THEY DO NOT MEET THE JULY 1 CUT-OFF. WE ARE NOT IN ANY WAY ENCOURAGING THOSE ARRIVING AFTER THIS DATE TO EXPECT PAROLE.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BANGKO22606  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ITFE  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 254055  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REFUGEES IN THAILAND  
**TAGS:** SREF, TH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006